

## Adams County Farm Bureau

# Agri Newsletter

News, Views, Information and Programs for Today's Farm Bureau Member

### Annie's Project Returns to Empower Women in Agriculture and Small Business

Across rural Illinois and beyond, women are increasingly stepping into leadership roles in agriculture—whether managing farms, launching ag-based small businesses, or supporting family operations. Yet despite their growing presence, many women still face barriers to accessing the financial, legal, and marketing knowledge needed to confidently make decisions and grow their enterprises. Annie's Project was created to change that.

When women in agriculture lack access to these tools and networks, they risk being underrepresented in decision-making, missing out on opportunities for growth, and feeling isolated in their roles. The consequences of not addressing this gap are real—not just for individual women, but for the sustainability and resilience of our rural communities.

Annie's Project is a six-week course designed to equip women in agriculture and ag-related small businesses with the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive. Through expert-led sessions in production, financial management, human resources, marketing, and legal topics, participants gain practical knowledge in a welcoming, discussion-based environment. The program fosters community, encourages questions, and celebrates the diverse paths women take in agriculture. Whether you're new to the field or have years of experience, Annie's Project offers a space to learn, grow, and connect.

Last year, eight women from Adams, Brown, Pike, and Schuyler counties participated in the program. Each brought unique experiences and left with new tools and stronger networks. From seasoned producers to those just stepping into ag-related business ownership, participants walked away with a deeper understanding of risk management, financial documents, and strategic planning. One participant shared, "I wish I had taken this class years ago. It gave me the confidence to handle our farm's finances and helped me connect with others who understand the challenges we face. Every woman in agriculture should take this course—not because we aren't capable, but because we deserve the support and resources to lead."

This year's Annie's Project course will be held on Wednesdays from January 21 through March 4, 2026, with March 10 reserved in case of inclement weather. Each evening begins with a light dinner at 5:00 PM, followed by the session from 5:30 to 8:30 PM. The program will take place in the basement of the Adams County Farm Bureau. The cost is \$150, which includes meals and all supplies.

Whether you're managing a farm, launching an ag-based business, or simply looking to grow your knowledge, Annie's Project is for you. Join us for six evenings of learning, connection, and empowerment. Space is limited, so register by January 14 at [go.illinois.edu/Annie's Project](http://go.illinois.edu/Annie's Project).

For more information, contact Dawn Weinberg, Ag in the Classroom Coordinator, at 217-357-2150 or [dweinber@illinois.edu](mailto:dweinber@illinois.edu). Information about the national Annie's Project initiative can be found at [www.anniesproject.org](http://www.anniesproject.org).

Adams County Farm Bureau is going to pay \$50 of the registration to the first four women who are Adams County Farm Bureau MM members (farmer member) or the spouse of an MM member who talk with Annabelle at the Farm Bureau office. You must talk with Annabelle before registering.

### 2025 Adams County Plat Books Available

Plat books are a great reference tool for landowners and business owners. They serve as essential guides for industries such as agriculture, land development, hunting, real estate, utilities, municipal government, and more. The latest edition, the 2025 Adams County Land Atlas and Plat Book, is still available, featuring the Adams County Bicentennial logo on the front cover to commemorate this historic milestone!

Published by Rockford Map Publishers, this edition can be purchased from the University of Illinois Extension at 330 S 36th St, Quincy, IL. For inquiries, call 217-223-8380.

The plat book features accurate displays of parcel boundaries, acreage data, roadways, waterways, railways, section lines, municipal boundaries, and recreational areas. It also includes an index of landowners. Each township parcel map is paired with a 3D aerial map, providing a quick visual reference for land use.

For additional products, visit [RockfordMap.com](http://RockfordMap.com) to explore plat books, wall maps, and a variety of digital map products from counties across the country. For more information, call 815-708-6324.

### Summer Intern Applications Now Open

The Adams County Farm Bureau Foundation is excited to offer a Summer Internship Program once again for 2026! This opportunity is open to students who have completed at least one year of college and are current Adams County Farm Bureau members or dependents of members.

The internship is expected to run from mid-May through August 1, totaling approximately 300 hours. While most work will take place in the office at 330 S. 36th St, Quincy during regular business hours, some evening and weekend availability will be required especially during the Adams County Fair and the Locally Grown Farmers Market season.

About 75% of the internship will support our Ag Literacy program, with the remaining 25% devoted to Farm Bureau initiatives, projects, and assisting with 4-H programming. This hands-on experience provides valuable exposure to agricultural education, community outreach, and organizational leadership.

Applications open December 1 and are due by February 1, 2026. An interview process will follow to select the candidate best suited for the position.

To apply, email [acfmanager@adams.net](mailto:acfmanager@adams.net) with "Internship Application" in the subject line, and we will send you the application form. You can also download it directly from our website at [adamsfarmbureau.org](http://adamsfarmbureau.org) under the Foundation tab.

### Welcome New Members

George and Pamela Dreyer  
David and Judith Huber  
Bob and Nicki Nichols

### Registration Now Open for the 2026 Young Leader Conference: Harvesting Success

The Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leaders are excited to announce that registration is officially open for the 2026 Young Leader Conference: *Harvesting Success*, taking place February 6-7, 2026, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in East Peoria. This annual event offers valuable opportunities for agricultural professionals ages 18-35 to enhance their leadership skills, connect with peers across the state, and gain practical insights to strengthen their operations and careers.

This year's conference features an impressive lineup of programming tailored to meet the diverse needs of today's young agricultural professionals. The keynote address will be delivered by Lance Weaver, former agricultural banker turned business coach, who now dedicates his career to helping American producers improve organizational strategies and build long-term success.

Attendees can choose from 20 workshop sessions across five educational tracks:

- On the Farm
- Agribusiness Management
- Young Professionals
- Education & Engagement
- On the Horizon

These sessions are designed to offer something for everyone, from hands-on farmers to agribusiness leaders and emerging professionals.

Throughout the weekend, participants will enjoy several networking opportunities, including the popular Harvest for All Fun Night on Friday and additional social events aimed at strengthening relationships within the agricultural community. Friday afternoon will also feature Collegiate Farm Bureau programming from 5:00-7:00 PM, giving students a chance to engage with peers and industry leaders.

A crowd favorite returns on Saturday, February 7, from 8:00-10:00 PM—the Glow in the Dark Trivia Night, benefiting Harvest for All. Teams can register in advance for \$100 per table (up to 8 players) by January 30, or sign up onsite for \$125 per table as space allows. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, along with special recognition for best costumes and team spirit. Participants are encouraged to get creative with glow-in-the-dark outfits and table décor. Registration is available through the Adams County Farm Bureau office.

Contact Annabelle at [acfmanager@adams.net](mailto:acfmanager@adams.net) for more information.





## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

BY BEN HUGENBERG,  
PRESIDENT

We will shortly be heading to the Illinois Farm Bureau annual meeting in Chicago. The state farm bureau is comprised and controlled by all of the county farm bureaus. Every county contains voting membership and that membership (the number of them that exist in each county) determines how many delegates each county will have at the annual meeting which in turn comprises the voting strength of each county.

During the business meeting, any by-law changes will be voted on by the delegate body. Those changes must be submitted in advance. In addition, the delegates will also discuss and vote on any changes to our policy books. This is the majority of our meeting. This session basically sets our beliefs and guidelines for any and all positions we will take on any subject. Our policy book is broken into many sections and covers multiple topics. New or differing positions for our policy book can be brought from the delegate floor or can come through the resolutions process. Once everyone has had an opportunity to discuss we will vote on any change and that will determine our positions or stances on issues for the next year.

In addition, this year we will have elections for the President, Vice President and all odd numbered districts. We reside in District 9 so our current director, Rick Edwards. He will be up for reelection. All of these positions must be nominated from the floor and then voted on by the delegate body. These positions comprise the 20 person IAA Board. The IAA Board's duties are to interpret and enforce the policies and guidelines of our membership, through their representative delegates. Their duties and power do not extend or authorize them to form or push forward their own agenda. Communication from each of the counties throughout the year both from and to the individual counties allows Illinois Farm Bureau to come forward as a unified force for all the counties.

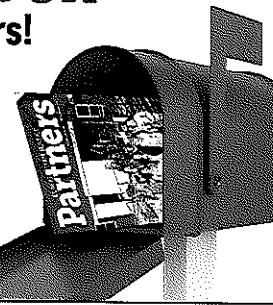
This formal portion of the meeting allows us to function as a grassroots organization by allowing us to be an organization that continual works for you and is controlled and guided by you, its membership.

I hope you had a safe and happy thanksgiving. May you have a happy holiday season.



## WATCH YOUR MAILBOX for Partners!

All Farm Bureau  
members now receive  
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MEMBER BENEFIT!



FARM BUREAU DAILY GRAIN BIDS									
		CORN			SOYBEANS			WHEAT	
		CSH	JUN	OCT	CSH	JUN	OCT	CSH	NEW
ELEVATOR		409	428	445	1028	1036	1053	546	546
CBOT FUTURES		417	428	435	1033	1001	1053		
CARG Florence		417	428	435	1033	1001	1053		
CARG Beardstown		417	428	435	1033	1001	1053		
CGB Naples		427	397		1040	1001	1044	487	487
CGB E Hannibal		401	388		1016	990		482	482
CGB Louisiana		401	388		1016	990		482	482
Bunge-SCF GV		418	398		1013	996			
Maschhoffs		413	398						
Bartlett		428	403	435					
Jersey Grain		411	398	430	1031	1001		492	492
Roquette		396	403	425	1010	962			
Ursa Farmers		401	397		1022	990		481	481
Dearwester		398	384	413	1026	986	1028	481	481
ADM-Quincy		400	379	404	1045	995	1042		

"NOW AVAILABLE TO YOU ON E-MAIL--CONTACT YOUR COUNTY FARM BUREAU"

## Getting To Know Farm Bureau Policy

### 101. FARM EQUIPMENT

We support:

1. Clarifying and simplifying the vehicle code and regulations relating to farm vehicles.

2. Proper use of the slow moving vehicle (SMV) emblems, retailers providing information regarding proper use and law enforcement agencies enforcing proper use of SMV emblems to be used in accordance with the most current American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) standards.

3. Seeking legislation to increase the fine for the misuse of SMV emblems to at least \$75.00 for the first offense.

4. State and county Farm Bureaus developing an SMV and lighting campaign to encourage farmers to update their older equipment with new amber flashing lights and SMV emblems.

5. Development and utilization of standardized specifications for pesticide containers and equipment connectors for closed pesticide application systems.

6. Farm equipment manufacturers and ASABE working together to create an improved system for new equipment that would better indicate turns, utilizing a unique color/style of flashing lights, such as sequentially flashing red arrows, making them more noticeable for vehicles that are approaching of following.

7. Development and utilization of standardized wire color/function for any trailer licensed for over-the-road use or any towed implement of husbandry.

8. A farm equipment owner's right to maintain, service, repair, and rebuild their vehicle or farming equipment on their own accord or by the repair shop of their choice.

We oppose:

1. Licensing farm tractors and other implements of husbandry.

2. Mandatory retrofitting of lighting on farm equipment beyond that which was required by law as of 2018.

## Grain Bids Available Via E-mail

If you would like to receive this page on e-mail at 4:30 p.m. each day, then please e-mail the Adams County Farm Bureau at acfb@adams.net. Send the e-mail with subject line Grain Bids and type your name, e-mail address and phone number in the body of the e-mail.



## LEGISLATIVE NEWS & VIEWS

By  
RYAN MEYER

Greetings fellow Adams County Farm Bureau members. As most of you probably know my family owns Meyer Premium Beef. I am constantly looking at the beef market. I am particularly interested in Trump importing Argentine beef. I have found a couple articles from American Farm Bureau Federation and Illinois Farm Bureau regarding the topic.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented on President Trump's plans to reduce beef prices through increased beef imports from Argentina.

"We know America's families face challenges when food prices rise, but it's important for President Trump to remember that farmers are facing an economic storm as well, and a vibrant U.S. cattle herd is at stake. Many of America's beef farmers have operated in the red for several years. Adverse weather and low prices drove cattle herds down to levels not seen in decades. Weakened cattle prices are the last thing needed in farm country, where farmers are being paid historically low prices for crops across the board while expenses remain high."

"We urge the administration to carefully consider the damage importing more beef and cattle from other countries will have as cattle farmers decide whether to invest in rebuilding America's herds. Just the mention of beef imports created more instability and uncertainty for America's farmers. Flooding markets with foreign-grown beef could affect our nation's ability to be food independent in the long-term. We look forward to learning more about the president's plan, and we stand ready to work with him to ensure farmers and ranchers can survive this economic storm."

From FarmWeek: President Donald Trump said his administration struck an agreement to reduce record-high beef prices caused by drought impacting U.S. cattle ranchers.

The president didn't provide details during an Oval Office event, but noted beef was one area where his efforts to fight inflation hadn't paid unique dividends.

"We are working on beef, and I think we have a deal on beef that's going to bring the price of beef (down)," Trump said. "That would be... one product that we would say is a little bit higher than we want it, maybe higher than we want it, and that's going to be coming down pretty soon, too. We did something. We worked our magic."

Trump's announcement followed a White House meeting with Argentinian President Javier Milei to discuss trade and financing to help bolster the country's economy, Bloomberg reported. The U.S. is a major importer of Argentine beef.

Since 2017, the U.S. has lost over 17% of its cattle ranches, and the industry has seen a total decline of more than 150,000 operations. The cattle inventory is the lowest since 1951, with supplies further tightening this year after USDA halted imports of Mexican livestock to keep out New World Screwworm.

As Secretary Brooke Rollins also announced last month USDA is developing a plan to revitalize the decimated U.S. beef herd, but will not offer payments to producers. The department is working to address the root of the shortage and deliver rapid relief, with more details and a rollout planned for mid-October, she said.

I am more than happy to talk with anyone about this topic as it is close to my heart, and affecting how I pay to keep my lights on.

On a different note, IAA Annual Meeting was first weekend of December. At this meeting, we debate and elect the policies for Illinois Farm Bureau for the upcoming year. Annabelle has already ordered our 2026 policy books and we will let everyone know when they are in and ready to be handed out.

Wishing you and your family a blessed holiday season! Until next time!

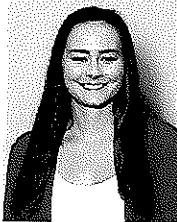


## ADAMS COUNTY COUNTRY INSURANCE & FINANCIAL SERVICES

### STAFF & OFFICE LOCATIONS

ADAMS COUNTY AGENCY	331 S. 36th, Suite 4B
217-640-5430	217-222-5841
Jesse Palmer .....	District Leader
330 S. 36th St.	Jack Basteri .....
217-222-7304	Lisha Leasman .....
Erica Stephenson .....	Agent
405 Hampshire St.	Agent Assistant
217-223-9900	Doug Greenwell .....
Crystal Peavler .....	Mary Connell .....
405 Hampshire St.	Agent Assistant
217-936-2120	LIBERTY OFFICE
Casey Casey .....	Agent
Kalyne Olson .....	Agent Assistant
1932 State Street	CAMP POINT OFFICE
217-222-7300	126 E. State St.
Drew Miller .....	217-640-5994
Eric Ervin .....	Agent
	Khalah Hughes .....
	Agent Assistant

## Notes From The Manager



Annabelle Schaffnit

As I write this the week before Thanksgiving, I'm already in full holiday mode, so it feels like the perfect time to share a few things I'm especially thankful for this year. This season always makes me pause and reflect on the people and moments that make my job, and my life, so meaningful.

First, I am incredibly grateful for Lisa, our administrative assistant. With 23 years in this office, she is a wealth of knowledge and organization. There are very few questions she can't answer, and she can pull a document from last year faster than I can finish asking for it. Stepping into this new role has made me appreciate her even more. She keeps the office running smoothly, and she does it all with kindness, patience, and a sense of humor that I greatly rely on. I'm convinced she secretly has superpowers.

I'm also thankful that Shawn hasn't blocked my phone number yet! While I've tried to cut back on the number of questions I send his way, he's still always available when I need him. He even answered me while he was in Las Vegas with his family. That kind of support means a lot. I've learned that stepping into a new position isn't just about knowing the tasks; it's about having people who genuinely want to see you and the organization succeed. Shawn has been one of those

people, and I'm grateful.

Third, I'm grateful for the board of directors. I know the transition from Shawna to me hasn't been the easiest, but they've shown patience and understanding as I continue learning. They have welcomed my ideas, provided guidance when I needed it, and encouraged me as I find my footing. They did make it clear they're not big fans of having their pictures taken for Facebook. So, if you've noticed there's only been one Board Director Spotlight so far, now you know why! One day I'll get more of them in front of the camera, but I'll give them time to warm up to the idea.

Of course, I am also thankful for my family for supporting me my whole life, but I feel like that is something I should save for the Thanksgiving Day dinner table. Still, their encouragement, phone calls, and "you've got this" reminders have meant a lot during these first few months in my new role.

Now, on to Christmas! Christmas is my favorite time of year. It's not even about the presents. I love the lights, the traditions, and the warmth that seems to fill the cold December air. Having my own house has made decorating even more exciting this year. I quickly learned that I can put up Christmas decorations whenever I want, without my dad shutting it down like the Grinch. So yes, my tree has been up since mid-November. No regrets!

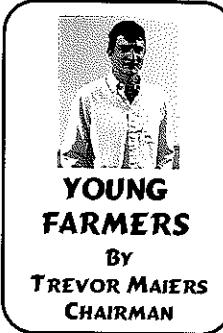
My boyfriend did manage to stop me from putting lights up outside... but come November 28th, those lights are going up, no question. I've already planned out where they're going, how many extension cords I'll need, and which sections of the yard have the best outers.

On a more reflective note, the holiday season always reminds me why the work we do here matters. Agriculture is built on tradition, family, hard work, and community, all values that shine

brightest this time of year. Whether it's farmers wrapping up harvest, families gathering around the table, or communities coming together for seasonal events, I feel grateful to be part of an organization that supports the people who help feed, fuel, and strengthen our county.

As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I'm more than happy to help. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season filled with laughter, warmth, and good memories. May your homes be bright, your hearts full, and your days just slow enough to take it all in.

## \*Merry Christmas



YOUNG FARMERS  
BY  
TREVOR MAIERS  
CHAIRMAN

Greetings all, and I hope to find you with harvest complete, and the holiday season fast approaching. 2025 has been a true roller coaster, for everyone involved it seems, and if 2026 is a smidge like 2025, hold on to your hats. Nothing seems to be stable for long, and who knows what the future may bring! The annual meeting for IFB will have passed, and with it, another year of direction for our organization will have been decided. Big decisions will have been made by the delegates, and the process of moving the needle on ag policy will have been set. Being a part of the process last year was very immersive, and eye opening to what is all decided by the delegate floor.

On the Young Leader front, we have the dates set for our Annual Young Leader conference, February 6-7th. Adams County had a great turn out last year, and we look forward to having a great group again this year. When the agenda comes out, we will be sure to pass along the highlights of the conference. If you have any questions, or want to attend, get a hold of the office, and we will get you registered. Have a great holiday season!

## Adams County Suicide Prevention Coalition

Barb Baker Chapin

### Caring for Your Mental Health During the Holidays

The holiday season is a time of joy and togetherness, but it can also bring stress—especially for farmers and farm families who are juggling busy schedules, unpredictable weather, and financial pressures. Here are a few simple tips to help you deal with stress during the holiday season:

**Take Time for Yourself:** Take some time out of a busy schedule to relax and unwind. Even a few minutes of quiet can make a big difference. Step outside, breathe deeply, and enjoy the winter scenery ... sit in quiet by the fire ... or listen to some relaxing music.

**Stay Connected:** Reach out to friends, neighbors, or family. A quick phone call or coffee chat can lift your spirits and remind you that you're not alone. Take some home-made cookies to a neighbor or shut-in; we always feel good when we help others.

**Set Realistic Expectations:** Farm life is demanding, and the holidays can add extra pressure. It is ok to say no to the requests of others or the demands we place on ourselves. Focus on what matters most—time together with family and friends.

**Ask for Help When Needed:** If you're feeling overwhelmed, it's okay to talk to someone. Reach out to a trusted friend, or a professional counselor. Or, call a crisis hotline. Help is always available by calling 9-8-8 or by calling the Farm Family Resource Hotline at 833-FARM-SOS.

*Wishing you very happy holidays.*

*May the season bring peace, joy,  
and hope for the year ahead.*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	U	U	G
2025-2026	E	C	O	E	A	E	A	P	A	P	A	U	U	L	G
District I	P	T	V	C	N	B	R	R	Y	N	U	U	L	G	
Brad Duncan	X	X													
Luke Muegge	X	B	X												
Tim Ellerbrock	X	O													
Matthew Duesterhaus		A													
Nathan Parker	X	R	X												
Brent Clair	X	D	X												
District II															
Jered Peter		M													
Bobby Baker	X	E	X												
Scott Venverdoh	X	T	X												
Kent Deego	X	I													
Alan Ippensen	X	N	X												
Dustin Speckhart	X	G	X												
District III															
Rob Hyer		C													
Justin Oberling	X	A	X												
Jonathan Willer	X	N	X												
Grant Huber	X	E	X												
District IV															
Jacob Schmidt	X	D	X												
Madelyn Thompson															
Eli Gronewold	X		X												
Jon Myers															
Brandon Niekamp			X												
Officers															
Pres. Ben Hugenberg	X		X												
V. Pres. Ryan Meyer	X		X												
Y.F. Rep. Trevor Maiers	X		X												



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## ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU AGRI NEWSLETTER

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Annabelle Schaffnit - Manager  
Lisa Parker - Bookkeeper/Secretary

President - Ben Hugenberg - Vice President - Ryan Meyer  
Young Farmer's Committee - Trevor Maiers

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tim Ellerbrock  
Nathan Parker  
Matt Duesterhaus  
Brent Clair

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Rob Hyer  
Grant Huber  
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Dustin Speckhart

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Eli Gronewold  
Brandon Niekamp  
Jon Myers



## ADAMS COUNTY'S AG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Kinsey Tiemann, Ag Awareness Program Coordinator

### November Ag in the Classroom Highlights

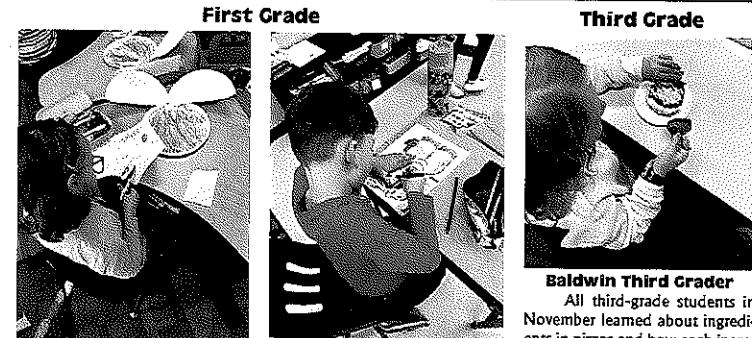
At the end of October, Baldwin Elementary School received their second Ag in the Classroom lesson this school year. In addition, the first half of November has been dedicated to second Ag in the Classroom visits in several Adams County schools. These include Rooney, St. Peter, Central, Payson, and St. Dominic.

#### Kindergarten



Payson Kindergartener

All kindergarten classrooms who received an Ag in the Classroom visit in November learned about sheep. First students listened to an informational sheep book. This taught the classes the proper names for female, male, and baby sheep along with how sheep are raised. Afterwards, students created a sheep craft to share with their families at home.



Baldwin First Grader

Some first-grade students learned about parts of plants we eat. This was built upon from the story 'Tops and Bottoms.' Through the story, students had a fun children's book with real-world connections. Afterwards students created a craft that displayed a garden scene with vegetables from the story. First grade classrooms at Baldwin completed the 'Tops and Bottoms' activity.

All other first grade classrooms in November learned about horses. These first-grade classrooms were at Rooney, St. Peter, Central, Payson, and St. Dominic. After reading a horse cat in the hat story, students created a horse puppet craft. In addition to the craft, students made a trail mix to discuss foods needed in horse diets.

#### Second Grade

Several second-grade classrooms learned about dairy cattle production. This lesson included reading a quick magazine related to dairy cattle and a farm tour video of a dairy farm. After reading and watching the video, each student received a small container of heavy whipping cream. For several minutes, students shook their containers to turn the cream into butter. Through this activity, students also learned the difference between solid and liquid states of matter. Classrooms at Central, St. Peter, and Rooney learned about dairy cattle.



Baldwin Second Grader

## Merry Christmas



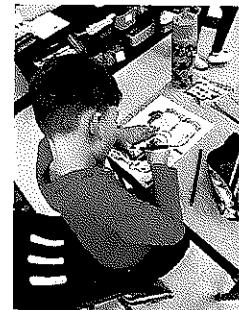
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#### First Grade



Payson First Grader

#### Third Grade



Baldwin Third Grader

All third-grade students in November learned about ingredients in pizzas and how each ingredient is sourced from agriculture. This included a fun activity for students to create their own mini pizzas using a hamburger bun, pizza sauce, cheese, and pepperoni. This lesson is usually a highlight for third graders. Through our reading, we drew connections to several popular foods children eat.

#### Fourth Grade



Rooney Fourth Grader

Lot of fourth-grade classrooms learned about cotton production in November. Students completed a quick reading related to cotton history and growth and later watched a video of a modern cotton gin working. Afterwards students received their own cotton boll to process by hand. Students greatly enjoyed this hands-on process.

The fourth graders at St. Dominic completed an activity related to soil layers. Students first read about soil conservation and the particles in soil to make up soil texture. In the classroom activity, students took "core samples" using layers of Play-Doh. Through this activity students understood that not every soil is the same. This showed that soils could be more productive for row crops and others are better for livestock/grazing.

#### Fifth Grade



St. Peter Fifth Grader

All fifth-grade classrooms learned about the topography of Illinois and how our state was formed by glaciers. Students learned a lot about the use of the land in Illinois. Such as the land in the southern and northwestern parts of our state were not-glaciated and have a hilly-rocky landscape. This landscape is better for cattle grazing. The central region of Illinois had multiple glacier movements to flatten the center part of our state, so it is great for row crop production. With this knowledge students mapped Illinois using modeling clay.

## What is Integrated Weed Management?

Integrated Weed Management (IWM) is simply combining multiple practices to target weeds.

It is usually a combination of one or more tactics classified as chemical, cultural, mechanical or biological control. One facet of IWM is avoiding the introduction of weed seeds into the seedbank as much as possible. IWM also recognizes successful chemical control requires knowledge of problem species and potential herbicide

resistances in each field.

An effective herbicide program implies products are applied at the right time and according to the herbicide label.

Cultural control practices include crop rotation, crop spacing and the use of cover crops. Mechanical control includes practices like tillage, harvest weed seed control such as chaff lining and seed destructors and could also encompass some technological innovations in

weed control technology, such as AI weed species recognition and prescription mapping of populations.

Biological control, using living organisms to manage weeds, is more difficult to directly harness but can be a beneficial outcome of some practices, such as planting cover crops, which can provide cover for seed-eating insects, such as crickets and carabid beetles.

Prevention comes into play when we clean equipment or our boots as we move from field to field, or when we harvest our cleanest fields first before moving to fields with the greatest weed pressure.

One of the benefits of suppressing weeds through IWM is fewer weeds are exposed to herbicides. This slows the development of herbicide resistance by reducing the probability that one of the individuals sprayed will have the genes that confer herbicide resistance.

The greater the number of weeds exposed to herbicide, the more likely it is to find an herbicide resistant one that will then reproduce and start a resistant population. However, IWM can create complex and uncertain outcomes when ecological factors interact; a good example of this is the influence of slugs in cover crop residue on successful crop stand establishment, or the influence of cover crop residue on soil moisture levels and timing of crop planting.

The more we understand these potential negative interactions, the better we can manage them and create successful IWM programs.

### Farm Provides a Gathering Ground

My Spiritual Gifts Quiz from church put hospitality at the top of my list. Mom didn't take the quiz, but I'll bet the Lievens 40 she'd score the same. So, with a strong service mindset and the shop space to match, we host. In the last 10 years, our farm has hosted two weddings, FFA and 4-H meetings, farmer events, a bridal shower, my daughter's graduation party, and last summer, the first-ever all-class reunion for our local high school.

By now, our employees know "other duties as assigned" in their job descriptions gets some mileage. And they know with Christmas coming, the shop clear-out and clean-up is imminent. In preparation for our four-generation Christmas party, we pause machinery maintenance, remove the farm equipment and scrub the concrete floor. Christmas carols replace country tunes on the shop speakers. When the big event arrives, the cousins make memories in a farm shop turned makeshift gymnasium for kicking balls, shooting hoops and riding pedal tractors. The adults play cards in the conference room, and potluck food lines tables down the office hallway for mealtime and grazing.

The farm naturally brings together family, tradition and community at the intersection of work and home, hospitality and hard work, generosity and gravel. Yes, rocks. We farm with 21st-century equipment and still live on a 20th-century road - a nuisance for guests arriving in heavy rain (mud and washouts), a dry spell (dust) or the early spring thaw when your car wrestles with the gravel road. It's all part of the experience.

Mom ensures hospitable elements carry farm flair. From wood salvaged off an old barn, a local carpenter transformed an old chest freezer into a rustic drink and ice cream station and fashioned a rolling bar to match. A "dessert wagon" sports steel wheels from an old loading chute and the door from a barn mow hides some of the welding corner. Among my favorites: Two tractors on the farm span exactly 70 years apart to make a conversation piece as much as a party backdrop.

The FFA mom in me roots for a winter "drive-in movie" with teen vehicles parked in the shop to watch a film on the drywall projector screen. But if not, we'll have a farm conference in March and a graduation party in May. Fingers crossed, the weather allows planting in April.



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You will find helpful information regarding what to do if you or a loved one is struggling with depression and/or suicidal thoughts, as well as helping resources in the area

## USDA Preps \$12 Billion in Farmer Relief

The Trump administration could roll out a federal farmer relief program of up to \$12 billion after the government reopens, according to media reports.

U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., said a Market Facilitation Program is "all tied up and good to go," Politico reported. Hoeven added it's being held up by the ongoing government shutdown.

Ag Secretary Brooke Rollins confirmed during a recent visit to Indiana a plan for farm aid distribution is currently being ironed out.

"That money that has been identified will be there. We are analyzing right now, exactly what this means. The plan is being put together. I don't know that, right now, at this moment, we know exactly what that looks like. I mean, we're in harvest right now, so we'll see what the market does, and we will be ready to continue to step in, if in fact, we believe it's necessary," Rollins said.

USDA recently moved \$13 billion into an account designed to provide emergency relief for farmers.

The finalized amount will come on top of President Donald Trump's recently announced deal with China, which could also give some relief to U.S. producers of soybeans, sorghum and meat.

Following the China announcement Oct. 30, the White House released a fact sheet with additional details.

China will start by purchasing 12 million metric tons (mmt) of soybeans from the U.S. between now and January, then purchase 25 mmt of U.S. soybeans annually for the next three years. China has begun modest purchases of U.S. farm products after the announcement, and traders still await significant soybean buys.

Last year, the U.S. exported about 27 million tons to China, according to USDA data.

Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan previously said the organization welcomed the announcement of the tentative agreement, and IFB's goal is to see fair access for farmers in foreign markets. IFB continues to advocate for permanent, enforceable trade agreements that open markets, eliminate unfair barriers and give long-term certainty.

Beijing also confirmed it suspended retaliatory tariffs on U.S. imports, including duties on farm goods, although shipments of U.S. soybeans still face a 13% tariff.

*May the Birthday of Jesus  
Bring Joy and Peace to You*



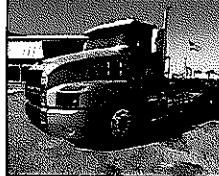
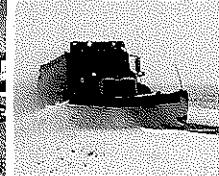
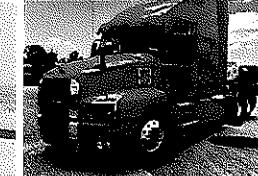
Just like corn or wheat, Christmas trees are grown as an agricultural product.

They are planted and harvested on a farm, often taking 7-10 years to reach ideal height for harvest.



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AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## AEM Releases Updated Precision Agriculture Report

Precision agriculture continues to transform farming across the U.S., delivering measurable improvements in productivity, input use efficiency and environmental stewardship, according to a newly updated study released by the Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM).

Developed in partnership with the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Soybean Association, CropLife America and the National Corn Growers Association, the 2025 study, "The Benefits of Precision Ag in the United States," builds on AEM's 2020 analysis and introduces new data on emerging technologies.

Released in August 2025, the updated analysis found current adoption of precision agriculture has increased annual crop production by 5%, with an additional 6% gain possible through broader use of these practices. Farmers are also growing more with fewer resources, eliminating the need to farm on acreage equivalent to roughly the size of five Yellowstone National Parks.

"Farmers are working really hard to maximize the value from their inputs and minimize the inputs that they ultimately have to use," said AEM Senior Director of Agricultural Services, Austin Gelling, of farmers' use of precision agriculture. "They're making sure that they're doing right by the land, doing right by the food that they're producing and doing right by the consumer that consumes that food as well."

This year, AEM also introduced a case study on targeted spray application, a technology that uses cameras and artificial intelligence to identify and treat weeds individually. Though still in early stages of adoption, the study projects herbicide savings between 50% and 90%, depending on field conditions and timing.

"When we originally did this study ... this was a technology that wasn't even commercialized yet," Gelling told FarmWeek.

While the study covers the entire U.S., Gelling noted that regional differences in climate and cropping systems affect how technologies are used. However, the benefits, including input savings and environmental impact, are consistent across regions.

Additional information from the study shows that each 1,000 acres of row crops farmed with precision agriculture generates approximately \$118,000 in annual economic value. This includes \$66,000 from yield gains and nearly \$52,000 in avoided input costs. Water savings alone are estimated at \$16,000 per 1,000 acres.

Beyond cost savings, precision agriculture supports long-term soil health. Technologies such as auto guidance and variable rate application reduce compaction, optimize nutrient placement and minimize runoff. These practices improve root development, microbial activity and water infiltration.

"I'm the seventh generation on my family's farm," Gelling said. "I've got a two-and-a-half-year-old son, and I want him to be the eighth. I want to make sure my farm is in a better place than I found it, and I know that's a story every farmer shares."



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## ADAMS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

### October Board Meeting Minutes

#### October Board Meeting Was Cancelled

### Farm Bill Extended Again in Government Reopening

The Ag Department resumed normal operations while the farm bill was extended for a third year after the president signed a funding package Wednesday that reopened the government.

The legislation, which was approved after a record-breaking 43-day federal shutdown, funds USDA, as well as several other departments, through fiscal year 2026, and extends the 2018 farm bill through Sept. 30, 2026. The legislation provides continuing appropriations for most other federal agencies through Jan. 30, 2026.

Farmers will see Farm Service Agency resume farm loan processing, and the reauthorization of programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), which expired with the 2018 farm bill in October.

Illinois Farm Bureau President Brian Duncan said he is glad to see the shutdown end and Congress pass a funding package to ensure farmers have access to critical USDA programs and millions will regain access to essential food assistance services.

"The legislation also addressed key provisions such as extending the U.S. Grain Standards Act, funding for farm bill programs not addressed in reconciliation and the authorization of USDA's FY2026 budget," he said. "Our fight doesn't stop here, while the bill provides much needed assurance for farmers, we must continue to prioritize and work toward a modernized five-year farm bill. Farming is too vital to Illinois' economy to ignore, and that is critical for our leaders to understand."

While a budget reconciliation bill passed in July included farm bill provisions that strengthen the farm safety net, the legislation did not replace a five-year farm bill. Some farm bill programs could not be included in reconciliation because they are policy, not budgetary. While those programs have been brought out of limbo with the farm bill extension, updates still have to be addressed in what many are dubbing a "skinny farm bill" or "farm bill 2.0."

In a statement released shortly after the House vote Wednesday,

House Ag Committee Chair Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pa., said now that government operations are being restored, lawmakers can turn their focus back to delivering "real solutions."

"Extending the current farm bill gives us the time needed to finalize farm bill 2.0, a bipartisan package that builds on the success of [July's] One Big Beautiful Bill," Thompson said.

At the center of Democrats' holdout to approve the funding package was the expiration of Affordable Care Act tax breaks in December. The deal to end the shutdown does not address those tax breaks, but Republicans promised a future vote on extending subsidies for health insurance plans. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program payments also were expected to resume with the reopening.

Senate Ag Committee Chair John Boozman, R-Ark., said ending the government shutdown ensures critical USDA services resume so vulnerable families no longer experience disruptions to nutrition benefits. Farmers can access the programs and personnel they rely on to keep their operations running efficiently and disaster assistance is delivered.

"We advanced long-overdue farm bill policy improvements in the One Big Beautiful Bill, including enhanced risk management tools farmers have been calling for, and we're continuing work to reauthorize other key initiatives. Extending the farm bill and the U.S. Grain Standards Act gives us more time to finalize these programs essential to farmers, ranchers and rural America."

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall applauded the end of the shutdown.

"Farmers and ranchers rely on critical USDA services and disaster relief programs during these tough economic times, as do Americans who need access to food assistance programs and other services," he said, adding he looks forward to Congress returning its focus to policies that will improve the farm economy and expand opportunities for

America's farm families.

The continuing resolution also:

Includes \$10 billion for farm loans "to ensure that our producers have access to necessary capital." The bill also includes language preventing USDA from closing any FSA county offices. FSA would also receive \$15 million to hire new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at county offices.

Extends the Grain Standards Act. That bill sets marketing standards for grains and oilseeds and sets standards for inspections and weighing. Notably, the budget only extends the current version of the act. The Senate Ag Committee recently advanced a reauthorization of that bill that would run through 2030. Congress is expected to continue with those efforts.

Automatically provides \$30 billion in annual funding to the Commodity Credit Corp., which is used to fund mandatory farm programs such as commodity and conservation payments.

As the farm economy continues to struggle with high input costs, depressed commodity prices and trade uncertainties, the Trump administration previously said a federal farmer relief program was being evaluated and could be approved after the government reopened. U.S. Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., further said a Market Facilitation Program is "all tied up and good to go," but it was being held up by the ongoing government shutdown.

A specific timeline has not been announced.

Illinois Farm Bureau continues to advocate for long-term solutions that strengthen market demand and expand trade opportunities.

The House approved the continuing resolution 222-209 Wednesday with six Democrats joining 216 Republicans to reopen the government. Two Republicans sided with 207 Democrats to reject the funding bill. Illinois' congressional delegation voted along party lines, except U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Springfield, who was one of eight Democrats who agreed to end the shutdown by a vote of 60 to 40 Nov. 10.



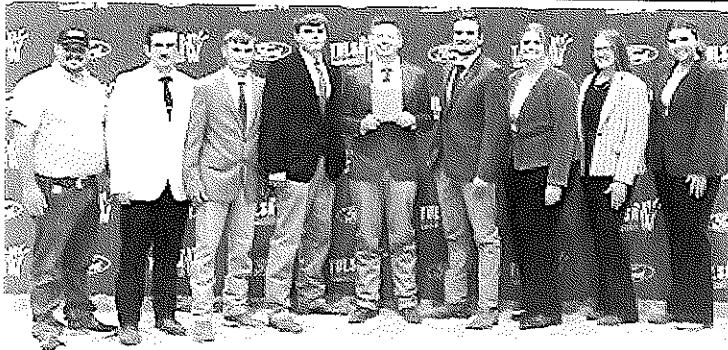


# JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## JWCC Agriculture Department Update

By Jody Heavner, Director



2025 is quickly coming to a close. It has been a very busy fall semester and time is flying by. While we are proud of the work our students and instructors do in the classroom, it is also important for everyone to understand the work done beyond school hours. We continue to look for ways to assist our students in preparing for the next phase of life. This is a glimpse of the activities from the past month.

October 23 found us hosting our 2nd JWCC Ag Center College and Career Fair. This event would not be possible without the support of our industry partners. More than 30 exhibitors from all segments of agriculture were present to meet with our students. Our students were

prepared to meet with their prospective employers as they sought internship and full-time employment opportunities. Several universities and colleges were present to discuss transfer opportunities with those who seek to complete their bachelor's degree. A big thank you to all of those who continue to show up to support our students and program. If you weren't able to join us this year, we would love to host you in the Fall of 2026!

The following week found JWCC venturing to Indianapolis where we became the exhibitor at the National FFA Convention. It was a great few of days of meeting new prospective students and catching up with those who are

anxious to make the Ag Center their college home for two years. Kaylee Martin and Garrett Morris did a phenomenal job of assisting me connect with students and teachers. We are so thankful to have been able to make the trip and be a part of the largest convention for our nation's youth. We look forward to attending next year.

November 13th meant another day of travel as our students made their way to Illinois State University to compete in the Illinois PAS competition. Eight JWCC students competed in 4 areas. Brady Althoff, Olivia Johnson and Wyatt McClintock placed in the top 3 in their respective categories and advance to the National PAS

## We Want To Hear From Our Readers

If you have letters to the editor, which you would like to appear in this paper concerning agricultural related topics, we be interested in hearing from you. Please limit your letters to 300 words and a name and address must accompany each letter to be published. All letters are subject to editing.

The Adams County Farm Bureau reserves the right to reject any letter. No political endorsements will be published. A daytime phone number is required for verification; however, the number will not be published. You may email your letters or comments to [acf@adams.net](mailto:acf@adams.net) or send them to Adams County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 3037, Quincy, IL 62305.



competition in March. Student will have the chance to compete in a different set of contests in February at the spring event.

Our Livestock Evaluation team has been on the move! From Minnesota and Wisconsin to Oklahoma and Kentucky, they have had the chance to see some of the best livestock our industry has to offer. Evaluating the classes and defending their placings by providing oral reasons to judges, encourages our students to develop skills that last

a lifetime. We are very proud of the way the 2025 team has represented JWCC. Jacob Davis, Zack Evans, Wyatt McClintock, Garrett Morris and Lance Venverloh have set the bar high for those to follow as they have had the most successful year judging for the JWCC program.

As always feel free to contact us if you would like to come for a visit or learn more about the program. Follow us on Facebook at *JWCC Agricultural Education Center* for the latest updates.

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- 1) Members may run non-commercial classified ads free of charge.
- 2) Advertisements will be accepted on a first-come first serve basis.
- 3) Ads must be in the Farm Bureau office by the 15th of each month to appear in the next month's issue.
- 4) We reserve the right to refuse any or all ads.

### FOR SALE

Pittsburgh 1-ton shop crane (cherry picker) from Harbor Freight (barely used). \$269.99 new - \$125. Call 217-645-3321.

Iris bulbs for sale. Call 217-224-6296.

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1966 Farmall 806 Tractor, \$10,500; 1996 Dodge pickup with snow blade, \$3,500; Hyster fork lift, \$6,500; Miller welder/generator with trailer, \$2,500. Call 217-257-6666.

FREE (you dig): Purple irises, red rose bush, mock orange bush, rural Liberty. Call 217-645-3700 or text 217-779-8258 for pictures.

This section is for members to advertise an item that they have for sale and is intended to be for a specific item. This is not for a service or ongoing business venture, but a one-time selling opportunity. This space is not to advertise community events or fundraisers either.

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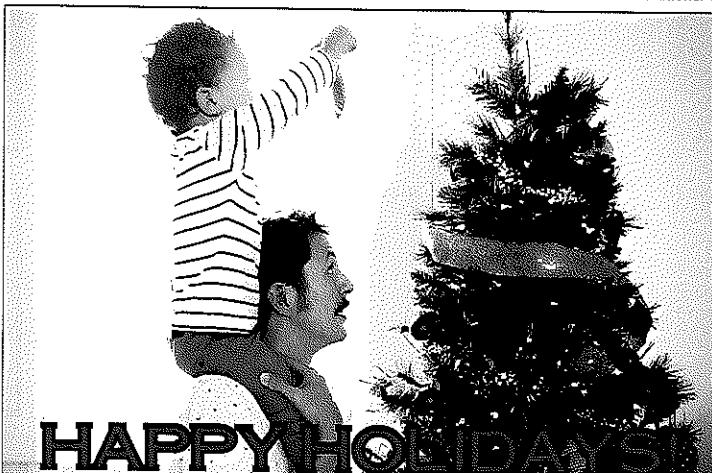
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